

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

Applicants respectfully request the examiner to reconsider her rejection of previously submitted claims 20 and 29 as being obvious over JP 05-070991. Applicants submit that the claims as currently pending are patentable over the '910 document for the reasons set forth hereinbelow. The Japanese document does teach an aluminum alloy having broad concentrations of zinc, magnesium, copper and zirconium. The '910 teaches a zinc concentration in an amount of 3-8%, a magnesium concentration of 0.5-3.0%, a copper concentration in the amount of 0.01-0.5% and zirconium concentration in the amount of 0.05-0.30%. These ranges are far broader than the claimed ranges set forth in independent claims 20 and 38. In fact, when one reads the '910 document in its entirety one sees that all of the alloy examples disclosed in Table 1 of the Japanese reference have alloying ranges of zinc and magnesium which fall outside of the claimed subject matter of independent claims 20 and 38. Thus, not one of the examples of alloys disclosed in the '910 patent have a composition which suggests the zinc and magnesium ranges of the aluminum alloys claimed in the instant application. Accordingly, it can not be said that the alloy composition of the present invention as claimed in independent claims 20 and 38 is obvious as a result of the teachings of the '910 document.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that all of the claims as pending patentably define over the art of record and an early indication of same is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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